

stand for what is being done to them. The need for added medical care is at its highest for our remaining World War II veterans. As each day passes, there are fewer and fewer who are still able to tell their heroic stories of sacrifice, duty, and honor. This also applies to those who fought in the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and other wars since. If this injustice is not addressed and rectified soon, the same outcome will one day apply to those who have so bravely fought, and are currently fighting terrorism in the Middle East.

We must rethink and correct the cuts that have recently been made and which are extremely harmful to the well being of those who have made it possible for us to enjoy the very freedom we experience today. Congressional inaction could result in American veterans—some in their 80s—marching on Washington, as World War I veterans did in the late 1920s. Thomas Jefferson said, "Eternal vigilance is the price we pay for FREEDOM." The vigilance he spoke of was vigilance against the British, the Indians, and the vicissitudes of nature such as drought, floods, hurricanes, and disease. Our vigilance today must be to demand that the House and Senate conference committee provide adequate funding for those who kept the fires of freedom burning brightly and deliver a veterans appropriation that will maintain the healthcare and the dignity that the greatest generation spawned long ago.

COMMENDING THOSE INDIVIDUALS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DE-  
BRIS COLLECTION EFFORT FOL-  
LOWING THE SPACE SHUTTLE  
"COLUMBIA" ACCIDENT

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 222. This resolution commends those individuals who contributed to the debris collection efforts following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident.

On the early morning of Saturday, February 1, 2003, just after 9:00 a.m. a tragedy struck our nation. For the second time in 17 years we lost the crew of a space shuttle. This time it was the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, the oldest of America's four space planes.

On board was a crew of seven courageous astronauts—six Americans: Colonel Douglas Husband, Commander William C. McCool, Astronaut Kaplana Chawla, Captain David M. Brown, Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, Captain Laurel Blair Salton Clark, MD, and one Israeli: Colonel Ilan Ramon.

The seven astronauts accepted this mission knowing the potential danger they faced. Despite the danger, they risked their lives and made the ultimate sacrifice in their dedicated efforts to advance our nation's space program. Each of these astronauts will be remembered as a pioneer and a hero.

More heroes emerged in the days and weeks following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident. These heroes collected the debris and wreckage from the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. Among the debris collectors were National Guard Civil Support Teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, trained to handle the aftermath of terrorist attacks. Their training

made them ideal experts for protecting the public from the toxic shuttle fuels. Also helping with the collection were Department of Public safety troopers, the National Forest Service, forest fire crews, and other law enforcement agency personnel.

As impressive as the efforts of public agents was the self-sacrifice of the over 1,500 volunteers who helped with the search for debris. The volunteers are residents of Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas. They hiked over and through thickets, briars, forests, marshes, muddy hillsides, creeks, and barbed-wire fences for over a week looking for debris. The volunteers braved near-freezing temperatures, gusting winds, sleet, and rain. They included teachers, NASA engineers, store-owners, and housewives.

Brian Carpenter, a volunteer from Warren, Texas described his experience, and why he joined the search efforts. "It's cold out here," he said, "but knowing that the day will come when the astronaut's families will be able to smile and think about their loved ones with pride and without grieving, there's warmth in that."

Tracy Jones of Orange, Texas said, "We want to give the families peace of mind. That's the only reason we're out here."

Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 222 to commend Brian Carpenter, Tracy Jones and all of the generous volunteers who helped to collect the Space Shuttle *Columbia* debris. I also support H. Res. 222 to commend the members of the National Guard Civil Support Teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, the Department of Public safety troopers, the National Forest Service, forest fire crews, and the other law enforcement agency personnel who sacrificed their time to collect the debris and bring a sense of needed closure to the grieving families of the astronauts. I commend everyone who helped with the debris collection efforts. They too are heroes.

HONORING LEMOORE NAVAL AIR  
STATION PILOTS

**HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2003*

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our local Lemoore Naval Air Station, LNAS, pilots who fought in Iraq. An Appreciation Dinner for our local LNAS pilots has been organized for Saturday, May 17, 2003 by a local radio station serving the entire Central Valley of California.

Saturday's dinner should serve as just one expression of our deepest appreciation for the commitment and resolve shown by the men and women of our Armed Forces. Pilots from the Lemoore Naval Air Station and courageous reservists and enlistees from the Central Valley joined forces with thousands around the world in Iraq. I would like to join with the hundreds of individuals who will attend the dinner to thank those who put their lives on the line for the sake of freedom.

Our local reservists and enlistees sacrificed for the betterment of our nation and the entire world, and it is only fitting that they receive the proper appreciation this weekend. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the pilots from the Lemoore Naval Air

Station for their brave and courageous efforts on behalf of our country.

HONORING THE FAITHFUL SERV-  
ICE OF THE REVEREND DR. STE-  
PHEN ROWAN

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2003*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Reverend Dr. Stephen Rowan in celebration of his 4-year anniversary as pastor at the Bethany Baptist Church. His dedication to the congregation and to the Greater Cleveland community is outstanding.

Reverend Dr. Stephen Rowan has been a member of Bethany for more than 35 years and has served in the capacity of Sunday School teacher, Trustee, and as Director of the Bethany Male Chorus. His father, the Reverend Dr. Albert T. Rowan, Pastor Emeritus of Bethany Baptist Church, was his confidant, inspiration, and role model.

Reverend Rowan has excelled academically. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Knox College, a Masters in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University, a Masters in Divinity from Trinity Theological Seminary and has recently earned his Doctorate of Ministry at Ashland Theological Seminary.

Reverend Rowan is the current Program Officer for Economic Development with the Cleveland Foundation, the country's oldest and second largest community foundation. He was a former partner with Ulmer & Berne, L.L.P. (1991-96), served as Chief Deputy County Administrator on the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners (1981-90), served as Interim General Counsel for the Cleveland Board of Education and was the former Director of Operations for the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (1975-81).

Reverend Rowan is currently a member of the Cleveland Bar Association, Norman S. Minor Bar Association, United Way Strategic Planning Committee, Advisory Board for the Center for Adolescent Health (CWRU), Quality Committee and Graduate Education Committee of Meridia Health System and the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni Association.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio and the United States Congress, I pay tribute to the leadership, dedication, support, and commitment of Reverend Rowan to the congregants and to the community.

PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL RE-  
DISTRICTING BY TEXAS LEGIS-  
LATURE

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2003*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, with all of the unresolved fiscal issues on the Texas Legislature's plate, the state's Republican leadership is attempting a brazen and appalling gerrymander of Texas Congressional representation.